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able in the East and in Europe, and it is therefore a matter for congratulation that our sky at Mt. Hamilton has been unusually clear during the past month, so that almost a continuous record has been secured at this observatory. E. S. H.

#### A HANDY STAR-ATLAS (MESSER'S).

I have lately seen a Star-Atlas compiled by Herr JACOB MESSER, of St. Petersburg, which is very compendious (the page is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $8\frac{3}{4}$  inches and the book is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches thick), and which, I should think, would be found extremely convenient for amateur observers who do not care to burden themselves with the larger works.

It contains all the stars visible to the naked eye (1st to 6th magnitudes, inclusive), from the north pole down to  $35^\circ$  south declination, together with a selection of the most interesting double stars, variables, nebulae, clusters, etc.

The atlas is published in two editions, one German, the other Russian. There are some 250 pages of introductory matter specially designed for amateur observers. E. S. H.

#### A LARGE NEW NEBULA IN AURIGA.

On receiving the announcement, February 6th, of the discovery of Nova Aurigæ, Professor HOLDEN requested me to use the CROCKER telescope for photographic observations on this star. The same day (February 6th) the WILLARD lens was, therefore, strapped to the 6-inch CLARK equatorial and a series of exposures made that evening. Similar observations have been made on every clear night up to the present time.

On a plate which I exposed for  $150^m$  on the evening of March 21st, I find a large and apparently new nebula in R. A.  $5^h 9^m.5$  Dec.  $+34^\circ 10'$ . The north preceding part of this nebula is in the form of a comparatively slender ray which seems to have its origin in the star W. B.  $5^h$ , No. 151. This ray gradually widens—the northern boundary running in an easterly direction for a quarter of a degree or more; the southern boundary runs in a southeasterly direction, passing just a little to the north of the star W. B.  $5^h$ , No. 162 (a naked-eye star), around which it appears to bend and then takes a southerly course extending more than a quarter of a degree beyond this star.

In a southeasterly direction the length of the nebula visible on